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Department of
Health and Human Services

Public Health Service

Indian Health Service

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Public Law 94-437 Title I
Extern (Student)
Employment
Program

HE 20.9402:

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Purpose

In the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, Public Law 94-437, September 30, 1976, the Congress and the President of the United States established a national goal: "to provide the quantity and quality of health services which will permit the health status of Indians to be raised to the highest possible level." To accomplish this goal, the Act, and its subsequent amendments of 1980, authorize the Indian Health Service (IHS) to conduct three interrelated scholarship programs to train the health professional personnel necessary to staff IHS health programs and other health programs serving the Indian people.

Any individual who receives a scholarship grant pursuant to section 104 shall be entitled to employment in the Service during any nonacademic period of the year. Periods of employment pursuant to this subsection shall not be counted in determining the fulfillment of the service obligation incurred as a condition of the scholarship grant.

Any individual enrolled in a school of medicine, osteopathy, dentistry, veterinary medicine, optometry, podiatry, pharmacy, public health, nursing, or allied health professions may be employed by the Service during any nonacademic period of the year. Any such employment shall not exceed one hundred and twenty days during any calendar year.

An externship provides the student an opportunity to gain practical experience while applying the knowledge and skills he/she is developing in school. The experience will also help develop self confidence and professionalism. An ideal time to do an externship is after the second semester of the student's sophomore year. This allows the student the advantage of experiencing another externship during the summer after his/her junior year. The externship experience allows the student the opportunity to work in his/her chosen profession in a real life setting. It also provides the recipient the opportunity to see and experience different areas of the country, tribal customs and cultures, depending on the site selected.

Eligibility

Students that apply for an externship must meet the following requirements:

1) The student must be enrolled in one of the approved categories for the upcoming award cycle.

2) Undergraduate students must have a 2.0 grade point average, graduate students must have a 3.0 grade point average.

3) IHS Scholarship recipients must not have been discontinued for any reason.

4) Any IHS Health Profession Scholarship Program recipient that will be graduating during the academic year

will not be eligible for the Extern Program, unless, his/her education program requires an externship be completed before graduation.

Benefits

1) Practical work experience in the field of academic study;

2) Pay during nonacademic periods (not to exceed 120 days in a calendar year);

3) Tuition or Salary (not both): This applies only to IHS Scholarship recipients.

A. If the student uses the externship to fulfill a required field placement under a health profession education program, the IHS will pay the school tuition and fees. However, the student will not receive an externship salary. If the student chooses to accept the externship salary, it is then the student's responsibility to pay the school's tuition and fees.

B. Non-IHS Scholarship recipients will only receive the externship salary.

C. The salary is administratively determined and based on the student's number of completed semester hours in his/her academic program:

GS - 2	30 semester hours
GS - 3	60 semester hours
GS - 4	90 semester hours
GS - 5	Bachelors
GS - 6	1st year of Graduate School
GS - 7	2nd year of Graduate School

4) Travel: The student will receive a lump sum payment for one round trip to his/her extern site if the student requests travel reimbursement.

5) The student is responsible for finding his/her own housing. However, information may be available to assist the student in finding housing from the Extern Coordinator, Branch Chief, and/or Extern Preceptor.

Procedure

The student must submit a complete Extern/Co-Step application which consists of:

1) A personal qualifications statement—Standard Form 171 or Commissioned Corps Application;

2) Extern Site Preference Request Form;

3) Inclusive College Transcript; and

4) Request for Extern Travel Form.

IHS Area Offices and States Served

Scholarship Coordinator
Aberdeen Area Indian Health Service
Federal Building
115 4th Avenue, SE
Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401
PHONE: 605/226-7553
STATES: IA, NE, ND, SD

Scholarship Coordinator
Alaska Area Native Health Services
P.O. Box 107741
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STATES: AK

Scholarship Coordinator
Albuquerque Area IHS
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Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102
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STATES: CO, NM

Scholarship Coordinator
Bemidji Area IHS
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Bemidji, Minnesota 56601
PHONE: 218-751-7701
STATES: IL, IN, MI, MN, WI

Scholarship Coordinator
Billings Area IHS
P.O. Box 2143
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STATES: MT, WY

Scholarship Coordinator
California Area Office
2999 Fulton Avenue
Sacramento, California 95821
PHONE: 916/978-4191
STATES: CA, HI

Scholarship Coordinator
Navajo Area IHS
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Window Rock, Arizona 86515
PHONE: 602/871-4811 Ext. 367
STATES: AZ, NM, UT

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Oklahoma City Area IHS
215 Dean A. McGee St., N.W.
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STATES: KS, MO, OK

Scholarship Coordinator
Phoenix Area IHS
3738 N. 16th St., Suite A
Phoenix, Arizona 85016-5981
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Scholarship Coordinator
Portland Area IHS
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Scholarship Coordinator
Tucson Area IHS
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Scholarship Coordinator
Nashville Area IHS
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STATES: AR, CT, DE, FL, GA, KY, LA, MD, MA, MS, NH, NJ, NY, NC, OH, PA, RI, SC, TN, VT, VA, WV, DC

Scholarship Coordinator
Indians Into Medicine (INMED)
University of North Dakota
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Grand Forks, North Dakota 58201
PHONE: 701/777-3037
Students recruited by the Inmed Program

Scholarship Coordinator
Lumbee Regional Development Assn.
P.O. Box 68
Pembroke, North Carolina 28372
PHONE: 919/521-8602
Members of the Lumbee Tribe only

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